CONFIDENTIAL

Department of State

OUTGOING
TELEGRAM

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INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 H-01 IO-15 ARA-16 AMAD-01 CA-01
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TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191693

MEXICO FOR DAS ROBERT B. LANE

E.O. 12065: GDS 7/10/88 (WARD, JAMES L.)
TAGS: CASC: (SULLIVAN, JOHN J.)
SUBJECT: W/W - JOHN J. SULLIVAN

REF: A) STATE 189503; B) SAN SALVADOR 5726

1. CONFIDENTIAL ENTIRE TEXT.

2. OCS/EMR DIRECTOR WARD HAS HAD SEVERAL TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS JULY 9-10 WITH CONGRESSWOMAN ROUKEMA (R-NJ) RE THE JOHN SULLIVAN CASE. SHE HAS BEEN FULLY BRIEFED ON BOTH ASPECTS OF THE CASE, I.E., THE UNIDENTIFIED REMAINS EXHUMED IN SAN SALVADOR, AND THE UNVERIFIED CLAIMS OFTWO LEFTISTS GUERRILLAS THAT SULLIVAN IS BEING HELD PRISONER IN EL SALVADOR.

3. CONGRESSWOMAN ROUKEMA EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE COINCIDENCE OF THE REMAINS BEING EXHUMED AND THE TWO LEFTISTS GUERRILAS DISAPPEARING ON THE SAME DAY. SHE WAS TOLD THAT THE TERM "DISAPPEARANCE" DID NOT FIT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES; THAT WE HAD BEEN ADVISED BY A HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN MEXICO CITY, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS, THAT THEY HADTRAVELED OUTSIDE OF MEXICO BUT WERE EXPECTED TO RETURN.

4. DIRECTOR WARD THEN REVIEWED WITH THE CONGRESSWOMAN THE INCIDENTS AND ACTIONS THAT LED UP TO THE EXHUMATION OF REMAINS ON JULY 9, POINTING OUT THIS WAS A CHAIN OF EVENTS THAT WAS WELL UNDERWAY PRIOR TO THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THE TWO GUERRILLAS IN WHICH THEY FIRST MENTIONED THE ALLEGATION THAT SULLIVAN WAS BEING HELD PRISONER IN EL SALVADOR.

5. WARD EMPHASIZED THAT BOTH THESE CURRENT ELEMENTS OF THE SULLIVAN CASE WERE BEING ACTIVELY PURSUED. THE U.S. MISSION IN GENEVA HAS ALREADY BEEN ASKED TO RAISE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS THE ALLEGED SULLIVAN IMPRISONMENT. WE MADE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTACT THE TWO GUERRILLA MEMBERS IN MEXICO CITY ON THURSDAY, JULY 8, AND WOULD CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO LOCATE THESE INDIVIDUALS AND DETERMINE WHAT INFO, IF ANY, THEY CAN PROVIDE RE SULLIVAN'S DISAPPEARANCE. IN THE MEANTIME, OUR EMBASSY AT SAN SALVADOR IS PRESSING AHEAD WITH ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY THE EXHUMED REMAINS. THE DEPT REMAINS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH THE SULLIVAN FAMILY, KEEPING THEM APPRISED OF DEVELOPMENTS. STOESSEL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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☐☐ AUTH: REASON(S)
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